

Freak wind storm cuts swathe through Norval area



One of two overturned wagons on the Bruce Nixon farm.

A freak wind storm, with winds of almost tornado velocity, cut through the village of Norval Saturday afternoon, ripping the roof off a barn and tearing up many trees.

The most extensive damage was dealt to the farm of Bruce Nixon, RR1 Norval. Half of the roof of the Nixon's barn was torn off and scattered across an apple orchard nearly 100 yards away.

The rafters of the large barn were also torn out.

A number of apple trees were cracked in half by the force of the winds.

Mr. Nixon was in a metal silo just feet away from the barn roof when the storm struck. As winds bent the sides of the steel silo inward Mr. Nixon recalled that a deafening roar shook the entire structure. At that point he decided to get out into the open.

There he found two large wagons tipped on their sides, the chimney of his home knocked down and limbs and branches of trees scattered across the front yard of the farm.

It took the Nixons a good part of Sunday to clear away the debris from the yard.

Fortunately there were no injuries and three vehicles parked by the side of the house escaped being damaged.

The storm seemed to have a kind heart for cars. Moving northeastward into the heart of Norval the storm's winds toppled a large tree across the driveway and front yard of Joel Sawyer, missing by mere inches the Sawyers late model car.

Neighbours pitched in Saturday afternoon to clear away the 25-foot high tree to get the car out of the driveway.

Some 200 yards down the road the storm destroyed one of four turrets on the front steeple of the Presbyterian Church.

Randy Hawes, who was working next door to the church in The Wood Revival, saw the turret come crashing down under the pressure of the tremendous winds which, Randy estimated, were roughly 80 miles per hour in strength. A chimney on the north side of the church roof was swaying back and forth, said Randy, and looked as though it was going to come crashing down, too. It didn't.

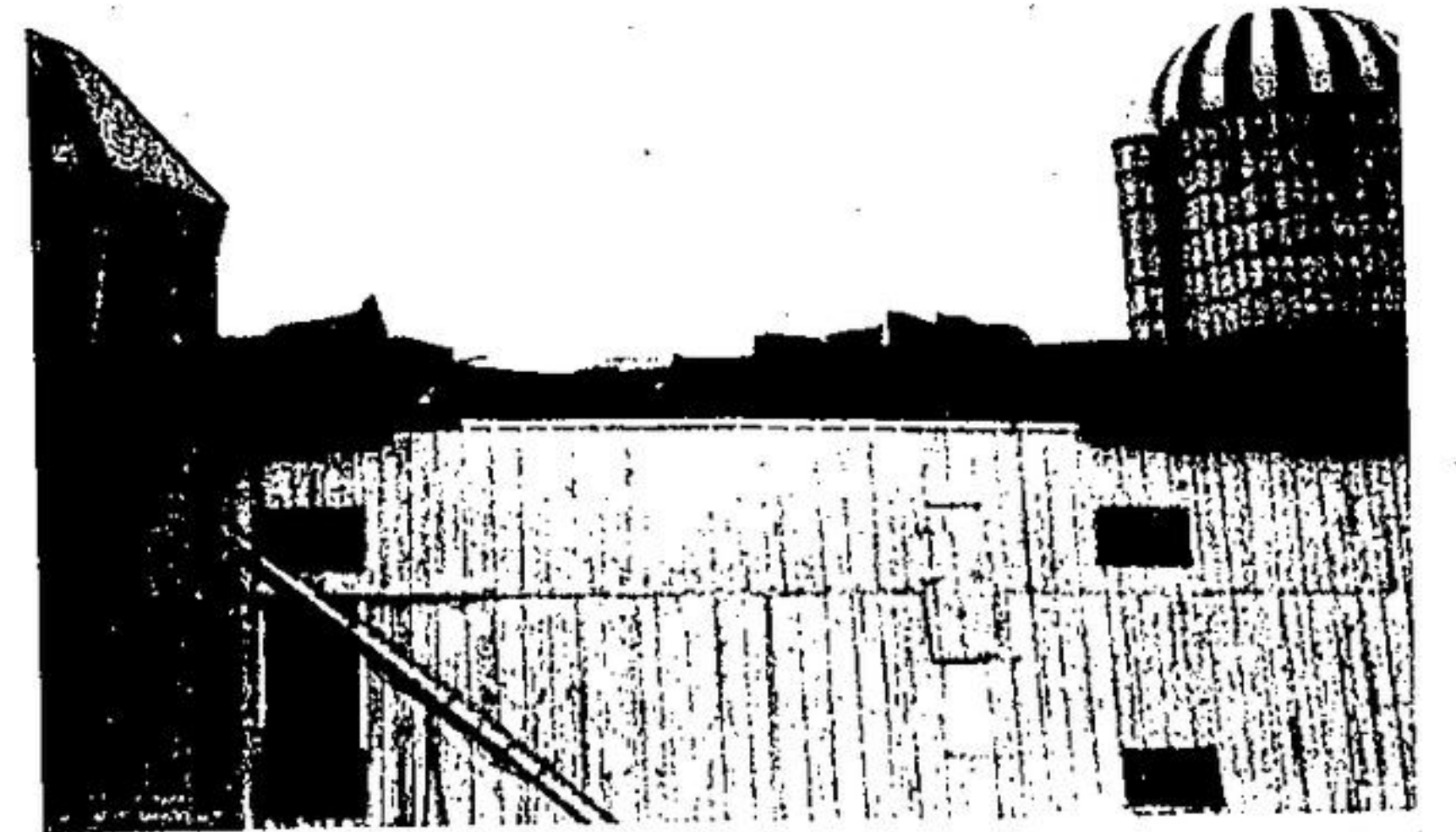
The brick and metal turret left a 12-inch hole in the church roof where it bounced before hitting the ground.

Another large 20-foot tree was toppled in the back yard of the Herald's Norval correspondent, Dorothy McLean. Again the falling tree narrowly missed striking anything as it fell.

One of the puzzles left behind in the aftermath of the "mini twister" was a badly charred 45 rpm record which Mrs. McLean discovered beneath the toppled tree. Where it came from is likely to remain a mystery.

As the storm was cutting through her back yard, pulling down the tree, in the front yard Mrs. McLean's large Saturday Toronto Star was lying in the open, barely disturbed by the wind at all.

The storm's major affect upon Georgetown, two miles away, was a tremendous downpour that lasted for a little under 10 minutes.



Remainder of the barn roof of the Nixons' barn roof.

the HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1976

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

28 pages.

The GVAS-- Citizen of the Year

The men of the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service were named as Citizen of the Year at the fourth annual awards dinner of the Lion's Club in Georgetown Friday evening.

A three-man selection committee composed of Bill Hunter, Lion Club president; Ron Johnston, first vice-president and Dave Barrager, Lion Club member unanimously chose the GVAS from among the 15 nominees, said El Lloyd, chairman of the dinner.

For those at the dinner who were unaware of the recipient of the award, Lloyd started off by saying the award was going to "a plumber, a carpenter, a teacher, an executive, a machine operator... a group of men who, without remuneration, help many."

Accepting the award on behalf of the 50 men who make up the GVAS, Bob Simpson, president of the service, said the men were proud to have the opportunity to serve the community.

"We live in it," he said, "and we're proud to serve."

Pierre Elliot Trudeau, prime minister of Canada, sent to the GVAS a scroll which was presented to Simpson by MPP Dr. Frank Philbrook. MPP Jillian Reed presented a scroll from William Davis, premier of Ontario.

Mayor Tom Hill said: "It's one time when I'm very proud to be mayor with such a dedicated group as the am-



PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU (left) presenting the scroll to GVAS Chief, Bob Simpson (right) is MPP Dr. Frank Philbrook.

balance service." In referring to the new quarters the GVAS will be moving to, the mayor asked the approximately 30 members of the ambulance service attending with their wives, to be a little more patient. "We'll move," Mayor Hill promised. "We'll get it done."

Also in attendance at the Lions Hall were past recipients of the Citizen of the Year, Mrs. Treahy, 1973; the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department represented by Fire Chief Ken Bulkema, 1974; and Rev. Peter Barrow, 1975.

and Mrs. Murray Hodde, Mr. and Mrs. Rod MacDonald, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Philbrook, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. El Lloyd, Mayor Tom Hill, June Lurch, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Reed and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Johnston.

Head table guests were Mr.

More on the GVAS on page 10.

Town includes Neilson in sewage plant plans

Halton Hills has set aside 150,000 gallons per day of the added capacity of the Georgetown sewage treatment plant specifically to help Neilson Co. Ltd. formulate expansion plans for its Guelph Street plant.

Following a meeting between Roy Laxon, director of engineering for Neilson and the town's subsidiary planning board last Tuesday night a resolution was passed endorsing the 150,000 gpd commitment by the town.

It must now go before council as well as be studied by the town's engineering staff.

With the go ahead from the town, Mr. Laxon said, plus indications of a turn for the better in Canada's economic situation Neilson may invest "a significant amount of money" as soon as next year in expansion of both its product lines and production plants.

However, he added later in an interview with the Herald, he had no definite indication at all from the corporate heads of Neilson whether or not expansion would take place in Georgetown next year.

The reason for the town's initial promise of 150,000 gpd was to show the town's desire to have Neilson expand its plant, according to Councillor Ric Morrow. "We want to do everything within reason to indicate that we are willing partners in their expansion."

The 150,000 gpd was merely a tentative figure to show Neilson that the town was willing to include the chocolate and ice cream plant in the sewage treatment plant expansion plans.

"We may lower it or raise it (the 150,000) as capacity and need permits," added Councillor Morrow.

Mr. Laxon indicated that, although the town had initiated last Tuesday's meeting, Neilson planners were looking for a positive sign from council, prior to taking action towards expansion.

"We're talking about a possible \$15 to \$35 million investment if we choose to expand and once it begins we cannot stop it. We need to be assured that once we've begun we can complete our full program."

When questioned by Councillor Ern Hyde about the sort of materials the plant would be putting into the sewage system Mr. Laxon explained that it would consist of milky byproducts, grease and fats, all of which

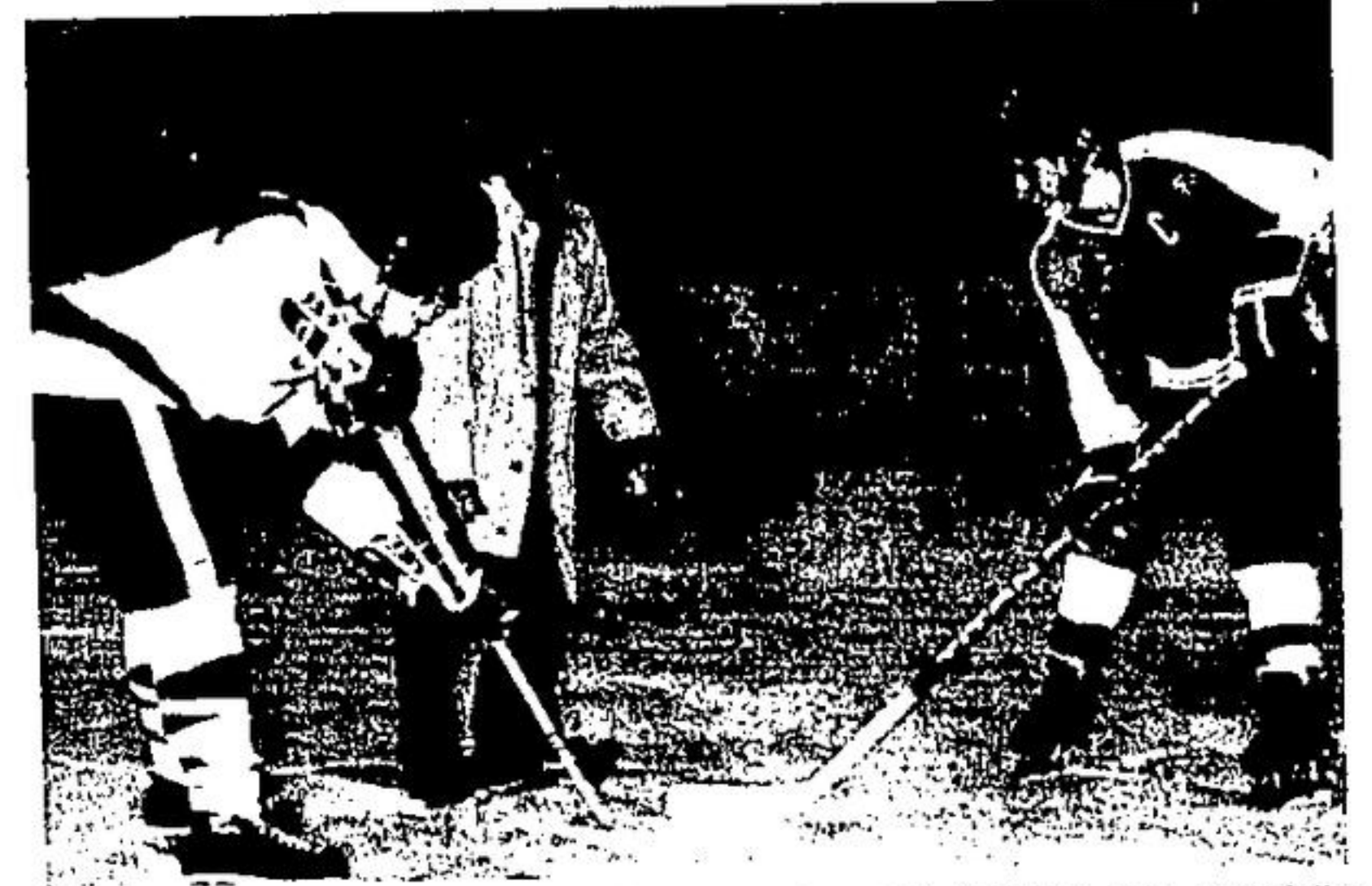
would be acceptable to present sewage treatment systems.

He added that the Neilson chocolate making plant in Toronto which disposes of

roughly 48 million gallons of effluent per year through the Toronto sewage system has never run into any problems with the ministry of the environment.

Full report on the sports pages

It was Bantam Week



THE GEORGETOWN INTERNATIONAL Bantam Tournament was initiated by a group of five Georgetown Residents 16 years ago. While for the most part, the originators have receded into the background, their concept has flourished and provided countless numbers of people with fine hockey en-

tertainment. On Saturday night, one of the original group, Mr. Roy Norton Sr. performed the ceremonial faceoff prior to the Grand Championship game. The four other tournament midwives include Gerry Perkins, Bryan Lewis, Jack Gudgeon and Red Asseline.

If you can't trust cops, who can you trust?

One of the tiniest coffee shops in Halton Hills is declaring bankruptcy because its patrons refuse to pay and the local police force are at loggerheads as to how they can solve the problem.

"Ye Olde Coffee Shoppe" is tucked in a corner of District 1 Headquarters of the Halton Regional Police in

Georgetown. Coffee in the 63 man detachment costs 25 cents a mug on the honour system. Next to the coffee pot, the hub of the entire organization, a sign reads:

"Harken unto thee Oh Coffee

drinkers. Our coffee fund is declaring bankruptcy immediately. Our expenditures far exceed our income. Thus it is impossible for this to work.

But on the bottom portion of the sign some squad room wit,

who has had his pocket book pinched once too often wrote in reply:

"You must be making money on the pop cooler. It takes 75 cents before you can get a can of pop."

Red Cross nears 75 percent

At latest report the fund-raising campaign held this month by the Georgetown Branch of the Red Cross Society had reached almost 75 percent of its goal of \$12,000. Paul Parkas, chairman of the fund-raising campaign, said in an interview at press time that \$,900 had been donated. Today (Wednesday) is the last day of the campaign. "We are somewhat ahead of last year's campaign," he said, "which is very nice." Last year's goal was \$10,000. "We still need about \$,900," Parkas said. "I'm positive it's coming in. We will be close to the target. The donors are not all in yet."



UP, UP, UP AND AWAY...Spring breezes brought out kite flyers from all over town. Scott Dalton of Centennial School and Mike Hartley of Holy Cross School found some wide open spaces and let their colorful kites soar during mid-term break.

Rusty Owners ready to go to court

The Automobile Protection Association will be taking the combined case of the Rusty Ford Owners group to court within the coming month.

Phil Edmonston, who heads the Montreal-based APA, in an interview on CBC television Sunday evening, explained that the class action lawsuit is now ready to go before the courts in Toronto.

He explained that he had hoped that Ford would agree to consider the Rusty Ford Owners' complaints without having to resort to a court case but that it now seemed inevitable.

Rusty Ford Owners is a group of dissatisfied car and truck owners headed by Georgetown resident Tom Beoney. Mr. Beoney was also interviewed by the CBC standing beside his three-year-old pickup truck, which shows severe rusting throughout the body.

In an interview with the Herald Mr. Beoney explained that the exact figure of the lawsuit, on behalf of the 170 members of the Rusty Ford Owners group, has not been specified yet.

Each owner would be asking for an amount that would amount to over \$1,000 while for others it would only be in the neighbourhood of \$300 or \$450.

As far as Mr. Beoney was concerned, "All I want is my truck fixed so that I can sell it." As it is now, due to the rust, Mr. Beoney has been told that he would not be able to get

a mechanical fitness certificate for his truck in order to resell it.

Money, however, isn't everything for Mr. Beoney and the Rusty Ford group. Their lawsuit, they hope, will spur the government and the automobile manufacturers to take a harder look at the "built in obsolescence" of automobiles and trucks that puts a three or four-year limit on a vehicle's life.

"I'm no metallurgist but there has to be some way to cut down rusting," said Mr. Beoney. "As it is now they build them to rust out."

And it's not just a problem in Canada where road salt is used as a frequent reason for rust on automobiles. Mr. Beoney is looking into printed reports that a group of Ford owners in Florida have banned together because of similar rust problems on their vehicles.

"How many things do you buy in a store that have to have CSA approval to be on sale? Yet for an automobile, which is the second biggest purchase most of us will make next to buying a house, there's no protection at all. You've got really nothing besides a one year warranty which doesn't cover everything."

"It's good for their (the car manufacturers) business but it's sure not very good for my pocketbook."